

7/9

Application No. 09/928,609

Official

7/7/03

Atty Docket: PUMA 1013-3

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-20 were considered by the Examiner. Claim 1 is amended, but in a broadening way. The rejection of claim 1 and the claims that depend from it is respectfully traversed below.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his time on July 2, 2003, in a telephonic interview discussing claim 1, Boothby '990, and differences between pairwise synchronization and using a data repository.

Independent Claim 1, as Patentable Over Boothby

Claim 1 has been amended without any intention of adding new matter. Support for the amendment appears, *inter alia*, at page 5, lines 2-8 and page 7, lines 5-8 of the application.

The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Boothby (US Pat. No. 5,684,990). This is a single reference obviousness rejection. The Examiner acknowledged that there is no anticipation, but asserted in paragraph 5 on page 8 that:

"... Boothby does not explicitly indicate said data repository storing user information that is a super-set of all user information stored at the data sets. However, Boothby implicitly indicates the status file P which is save after synchronization and used as input to the next synchronization, is a file containing one record per pair of synchronization handhold and desktop records, each status file record is a simple unconflicted record, due to mapping of handhold records to desktop records the use of only one set presents no problem with respect to the other set (see col. 5, lines 46-53). *Further, in columns 8-9, lines 67-2, Boothby teaches the invention may be used to synchronize data of two or more desktop computers, two or more notebook computer, two or more handhold computers*. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Boothby with said data repository storing user information that is a super-set of all user information stored at the data sets." (underlining by Examiner).

It is one thing for Boothby to describe a need for synchronization. Examination needs to focus on the way in which Boothby proposes to synchronize multiple clients, rather than the need to synchronize.

8/9

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Boothby explains his way of synchronizing multiple clients in column 9, lines 7-15, set out to the right. Boothby teaches pairwise synchronization, which creates problems described in this application on page 3. Boothby is very clear about maintaining *separate* status files for each pair. Boothby does not teach or suggest a super-set data repository for

data of two or more desktop computers, two or more notebook computers, two or more handheld computers, or any combination of microcomputers, minicomputers, main-frame computers, or other computers. The invention may also be used to synchronize two or more databases on the same computer. 5

The invention may also be used to synchronize more than two databases. This can be accomplished, for example, by running the synchronization program multiple times, each time synchronizing a new database to an already-synchronized database. For example, in order to synchronize databases A, B, C, and D, the synchronization program could be run first on A and B, then A and C, then A and D; or first on A and B, then B and C, then C and D, etc. Separate status files would be maintained for each pair. 10 15

synchronization among more than two clients. Boothby is fairly characterized as providing evidence of a long felt need and of failure of others to invent the way of solving the need that is claimed in this application. A fair reading of Boothby supports non-obviousness.

The present application provides support and description in the summary of invention for using a data repository that is a super-set, at page 5 of the application.

The GUD introduces a third data set, a middleware database. This third data set provides a super-set of the other two client data sets. Therefore, if the user now includes a third client, such as a server computer storing user information, the synchronization system of the present invention has all the information necessary for synchronizing the new client, regardless of whether any of the other clients are currently available. The system can, therefore, correctly propagate information to any appropriate client without having to "go back" to (i.e., connect to) the original client from which that data originated.

The data repository of claim 1 is nowhere to be found in Boothby, much less a data repository of user information for which any user desires synchronization support.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection over Boothby and allow claim 1 as currently amended.

Dependent Claims

Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims should be patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims.

9/9

Application No. 09/928,609

Atty Docket: PUMA 1013-3

CONCLUSION

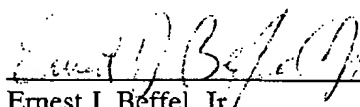
New counsel for Applicants (and for a new assignee) welcomes the opportunity to discuss this case further with the Examiner, in the interest of expediting issuance. If the Examiner does not agree with the present analysis of Boothby, Applicants would most appreciate an opportunity to discuss claim 1 with the Examiner and find language that further expresses the differences between claim 1 and Boothby.

The undersigned normally can be reached between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., excepting lunch, at the numbers listed below.

Thank you for consideration of these remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 07 July 2003


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